

Best Workplaces for CommutersSM from the FORTUNE 500 Companies

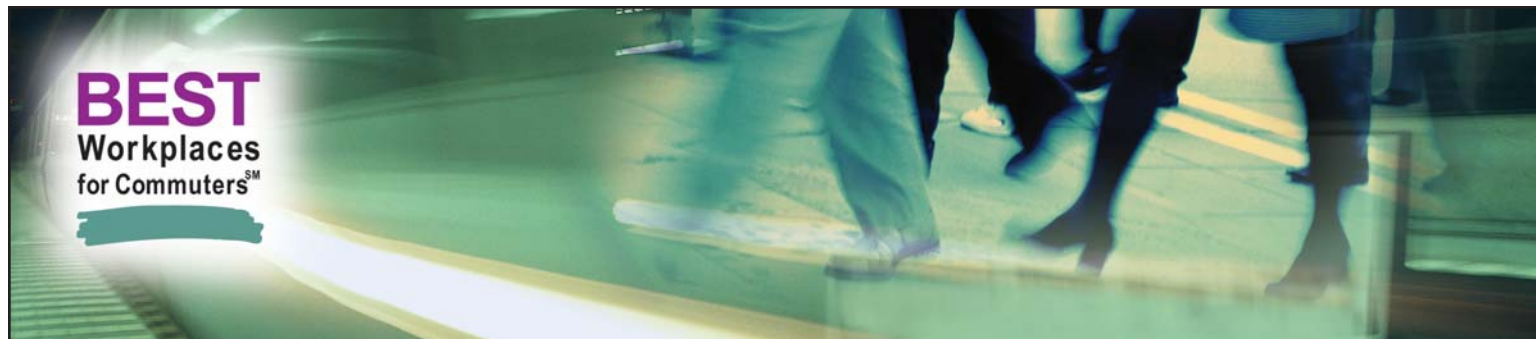
Under Embargo Until October 19, 2005

Fast Facts

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is recognizing nearly 90 companies on the 2005 list of Best Workplaces for Commuters from the FORTUNE 500 Companies for qualifying one or more worksites as Best Workplaces for Commuters.
- At a time when President Bush is calling for energy conservation, these companies are offering excellent commuter benefits that preserve the nation's resources and achieve a cleaner environment.
- Fifty-two of these companies are specially recognized for providing excellent commuter benefits to more than 10 percent of their U.S. workforce.
- Almost 600,000 commuters receive commuter benefits from Best Workplaces for Commuters from the FORTUNE 500 Companies, conserving nearly 30 million gallons of gasoline and saving over \$80 million dollars annually. (*Energy Information Administration, October 17, 2005 national average price \$2.75/gallon*)
- Employers being recognized are also reducing approximately 270,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to eliminating emissions from more than 53,000 cars each year.
- The top 20 employers on the list offer outstanding commuter benefits to 58 percent of their combined total U.S. workforce—more than 350,000 commuters in total, up from 200,000 last year.
- If half of all U.S. employees worked for employers offering outstanding commuter benefits, 3.5 billion gallons of gasoline would be conserved saving consumers more than \$10 billion annually and reducing carbon dioxide by 30 million metric tons – the equivalent of taking 6 million cars off the road. (*Energy Information Administration, October 17, 2005 national average price \$2.75/gallon*)
- Employees who work for Best Workplaces for Commuters are 20 percent more likely to telework or commute via carpool, vanpool, transit, walking, or bike than employees working for other nearby companies.

Commuting Facts

- 14 percent of Americans say they have changed jobs, or simply left a job, primarily because of the commute. (*ABC News Poll, February, 2005*)
- In 2003, congestion resulted in 3.7 billion person-hours, or more than 92 million work weeks of delay in the United States. (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*)
- Annual total delays per peak traveler during rush hour almost tripled between 1982 and 2003, from 16 hours to 47 hours, respectively. (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*)



- The number of urban areas with more than 20 hours of annual delay per peak traveler has grown from only five in 1982 to 51 in 2003. (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*)
- The amount of fuel lost to engines idling in traffic jams now totals 2.3 billion gallons per year. At \$2.75 per gallon, this represents more than \$6 billion dollars that commuters could have spent on housing, health care, education, or other discretionary items (*Energy Information Administration, October 17, 2005 national average price \$2.75/gallon; Texas Transportation Institute, 2005 Urban Mobility Report*)

Health and Work/Life Effectiveness Facts

- Walking two miles a day most days can reduce your heart attack risk by 28 percent. (Brookes University Health Walks Research)
- Traffic crashes are the number one cause of workplace injury fatalities, costing U.S. employers \$40 billion annually. (*Safety and Health*, June 2004, Vol. 169)
- Exposure to traffic-related pollution, such as exhaust from cars, trucks, and school buses, increases a child's risk of respiratory complications as well as lifetime risk of cancer. (American Academy of Pediatrics, Dec. 6, 2004)
- Workers with flexible options—such as telecommuting from home or having alternative work hours—are least likely to leave their companies, have the highest productivity, and enjoy better mental health. (Families and Work Institute, 2004)

Air Quality Facts

- Driving a private car is probably a typical citizen's most polluting daily activity. (U.S. EPA, Office of Transportation and Air Quality)
- Passenger vehicles (pickups, minivans, vans, and sport utility vehicles) create about one third of all air pollution nationwide. (U.S. EPA, *Green Vehicle Guide Resource Information*)

Financial Facts

- Traffic congestion now costs Americans \$63.1 billion a year. (Texas Transportation Institute, *2005 Urban Mobility Report*)
- This year, the average low-income American household will spend more than 10 percent of its \$15,000 income on gasoline. (Consumer Federation of America)
- Households are conservatively estimated to spend an average of \$2,378 this year on gasoline (assuming \$2.75/gallon). That figure is up from \$1,342 only three years ago (2002), an increase of more than 50 percent. (*Energy Information Administration, October 17, 2005 national average price \$2.75/gallon; Consumer Federation of America*)

